



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting

April 11, 2023

State Agency and Partner Updates

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Updates

Dual Language Designation Now Available

The Early Achievers Dual Language Designation recognizes programs supporting multilingual children and families in dual language learning environments to meet their specific strengths and needs. To learn all about the dual language designation, visit the [Dual Language Learning webpage](#).

DCYF Welcomes Interim Assistant Secretary for Licensing

DCYF recently announced the appointment of Ruben Reeves as Interim Assistant Secretary for Licensing. Reeves brings 26 years of experience with the agency and 20 years in Licensing with the State of Washington, leading his teams through several system improvements across all programs within the Licensing Division. Over the coming months, DCYF will launch a national recruiting effort to fill the Assistant Secretary for Licensing position.

Infant and Early Childhood Conference Registration is Open

The Infant and Early Childhood Conference (IECC) plays a critical role in providing high-quality training opportunities in Washington State. The annual conference will offer a wide variety of topics covering many aspects of early childhood education and support. [Register here](#).

Group Care Background Check Updates

DCYF is excited to announce that the Background Check Unit (BCU) has further streamlined the [Group Care background check process](#). There is a new [Background Check Form](#) that will need to be filled out when sending in the background request that is specific to group care providers. [Read more here](#).

Community Based FRS Co-Design Project Town Hall | [Register here](#)

DCYF is hosting a town hall on Tuesday, April 25, from 3 to 5 p.m. During the meeting, DCYF Adolescent Program Co-Design Manager Lily Cory and Adolescent Prevention Program Manager Cole Ketcherside will provide information on the Community Based Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) Co-Design Project. You will also have opportunities to ask questions. Please register below to attend this town hall. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov.

Early Childhood Equity Grant | Timeline Update

DCYF originally stated that there would be three rounds of applications for the Early Childhood Equity Grant (Summer 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023), and each round of applications would have \$1.7 million available, for a total of \$5.1 million.

After carefully considering feedback from stakeholders and partners after the first round, we have decided to hold only one additional round of the grant this fiscal year instead of two. This decision was made to allow more time for engagement in the refinement process, ensure that the grant meets its intended goals, and honor meaningful involvement from providers, stakeholders, allies, and government partners.

The remaining \$3.4 million in funds for this period will be awarded during the second round of applications. We expect the second round of the Early Childhood Equity Grant to open in Spring 2023.

If you want to read more about the first round of the Early Childhood Equity Grant, the Fast Facts are available on our website here: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#).

Your input and feedback are greatly appreciated and will be used to inform future decisions and policies related to the Early Childhood Equity Grant.

Join your colleagues for the Early Achievers Institute

Open to all Early Achievers participants in the state of Washington, including center-based and family child care educators and program leaders who provide services for children and youth from birth to school age, and their coaches.

The in-person event is on April 29, 2023, at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. The virtual event is May 1-2, 2023. [Register here](#).

Home Visiting Funding Opportunities

DCYF currently has several open Home Visiting funding opportunities on our [website](#). This includes exploration planning for one or two organizations to explore home visiting, where none exists, in any of the following rural counties in Southern Washington:

- Asotin
- Columbia
- Garfield
- Klickitat
- Skamania

DCYF Rulemaking Update

Early Learning Child Care – Emergency exits and access to licensed space.

DCYF has completed rules to clarify:

- The agency's authority to access licensed space and the consequences for refusing access.
- The requirement for two emergency exits for each floor of licensed space in family home child cares and describe the specific criteria for each exit.
- Child care providers ensure nondiscrimination of LGBTQIA+ children enrolled in child care.
- Immunization requirements with chapter 246-105 WAC under which child care providers who enroll unimmunized children must notify the parents or guardians that children who are not immunized within 30 days of enrollment, will be excluded from care.

Specifically, DCYF created new WAC 110-300-0035 and amended WACs 10-300-0005, 110-300-0030, 110-300-0166, and 110-300-0210. The final rules were filed as [WSR 23-07-066](#) and will become permanent rules on Monday, April 10, 2023. [Read more here.](#)

Additional State Agency/Partner Updates

Department of Social and Health Services

For more information, please contact Tarimah Williams at Tarimah.Williams@dshs.wa.gov.

No updates to share at this time

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

For more information, please contact Ryan Guzman at Ryan.Guzman@k12.wa.us

The University of Washington IPP PreK Demo Site Spotlight

Robert Lince Early Learning Center provides inclusive early education to children with and without disabilities in Selah, Washington. They use a braided funding model to serve children in classrooms who may have otherwise been separated based on different programs (e.g., ECAEP, Special Education, Dual Language). Robert Lince's strong inclusionary practices include multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), differentiated instruction, professional learning communities focused on inclusion, and culturally responsive pedagogy.

To learn more about Robert Lince and take a deep dive into their practices, please visit the IPP [Demo Sites website](#). Your team can sign up to tour Robert Lince this Spring by completing the [Demonstration Site Visit Request Form!](#)"

For additional updates: [March 2023 Special Education Update \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Legislative Update

March 8th is the 59th day of a 105-day legislative session and is also the last day for bills to be passed out of their house of origin. That means, any bill that was introduced in the Senate, must receive a vote of approval by the Senate before starting its journey in the House of Representatives, and vice versa for bills introduced in the House of Representatives.

- **Special Education Funding ([ESHB 1436](#) & [E2SSB 5311](#))**
- **Ending Student Restraint and Isolation ([2SHB 1479](#))**

To see what bills OSPI Special Education is watching, please check out our [2023 Bill Tracker Page](#). Have questions or comments, please contact David.Green@k12.wa.us.

Department of Health (DOH)

For more information, please contact Astrid Newell and Angie Funaiole at astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov and angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov.

Update! Birth Equity Project

In March, the DOH awarded Birth Equity Project funding to five organizations serving pregnant and birthing people in the state. These organizations are led by and serve Washington's Black/African American, African Immigrant, and American Indian/Alaska Native communities. [Learn more about the grantees.](#)

DOH's Birth Equity Project funding seeks to address and reduce the racism faced by birth workers and families of the priority communities and improve birth outcomes. DOH is investing in community-based birth worker organizations to help close the gaps through culturally responsive care. For any questions, please reach out to [Caroline Sedano](#).

WIC Adds Lead Question to Annual Nutrition Assessments

Starting this spring, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program staff will ask families of children who receive WIC services whether their child has had a blood lead test. WIC's annual nutrition assessment will now include a question about lead testing, lead education materials, and a referral to talk with their providers if their child hasn't had a lead test.

Children can be exposed to lead through various sources around the home. Lead-based paint in older homes built before 1978 is the most common source of lead exposure today. When old lead paint peels, chips, or wears down, it creates dangerous dust that can be swallowed or inhaled by children. Lead can have toxic effects if it enters the body – even at low levels, lead can cause harm to the brain and nervous system. Lead exposure can also lead to behavioral and learning problems, lower IQ, and hearing problems. There are no obvious symptoms of lead poisoning, so a blood lead test is the only way to tell if a child has been exposed to lead. Anyone can be affected by lead, but children under 6 years of age are most at risk.

For more information on childhood lead exposure, visit our [website](#) or contact the Department of Health's Childhood Blood Lead Program at 800-909-9898 or lead@doh.wa.gov.

Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)

For more information please contact Olivia Burley at Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov

WDVA has published a report on child care for military families in Washington. You can access the report here: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/childcare>.

In February 2022, the Department of Defense expanded Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN)-PLUS, its child care fee assistance program for military families, to Washington. Now, child care providers that are state-licensed can have national accreditation (from Department of Defense-approved accrediting bodies) or be quality rated through Washington State's Early Achievers program to be eligible for this fee assistance subsidy program. To learn more, visit [Work with Military Children | MCC Central \(disa.mil\)](#).

Washington has been selected as a pilot state for the Army National Guard's Weekend Drill Child Care program. The Weekend Drill Child Care provides no-cost, hourly child care to support Army National Guard families during their scheduled weekend drill periods. Provider eligibility requirements are different than for MCCYN/MCCYN-PLUS and include state licensure, background check, liability insurance, first aid/CPR certification, and weekend availability. Learn more here: [Non-Traditional Care Providers - Child Care Aware® of America](#)